

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application, and for the indication of allowable subject matter. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Drawings:

Figures 1 and 4 have been labeled as "prior art". However, although Figures 2 and 3 do not represent the present invention, Applicants believe that they are not technically prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103.

Art Rejections:

Claims 1-2, 5-10, 20 and 26-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,236, hereinafter *DiGiovanni*. With regard to the rejection, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, in view of the amendments to claim 1, that claim should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 17, 18, and 19, have also been rewritten in independent form.

Claim 20 has been amended by including the subject matter of claim 21 therein. Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 21 contains allowable subject matter, claim 20 should now also be in condition for allowance.

Claims 29-36 have been cancelled, and the Examiner has indicated that claims 37-43 are in condition for allowance.

The remaining rejected claims, 2, 5-10, and 26-28 depend from either amended claim 1 or amended claim 20. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the prior art rejection has been overcome by the foregoing amendments.

To further define the protection to which Applicants are entitled, new independent claims 44-58 are added.

Claim 44 finds support, at least at page 7, lines 4-9, and includes subject matter somewhat similar to allowed dependent claim 4.

New claim 46 includes subject matter somewhat similar to the material of original claims 1 and 4.

New claim 48 finds support in original claims 4 and 8, and the drawings.

Claim 50 finds support in original claims 20 and 29 (which the Examiner has found to contain allowable subject matter).

The remaining new claims depend from one or more of the new independent claims discussed herein.

Applicants submit that the new claims are in condition for allowance because the cited prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed subject matter. Specifically, claims 44, 46, 48 each contain subject matter similar to that in original claim 4, which the Examiner indicated contains allowable subject matter. And, new claim 50 contains subject matter of claim 29, which the Examiner indicated was allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

Submitted concurrently herewith is a copy of an Opposition that was filed in EP 1 153 325 B1, which claims priority from the same applications from which the


present application claims priority. The Opposition was filed by NKT Research and Innovation A/S, which is related to the present owners of the present application.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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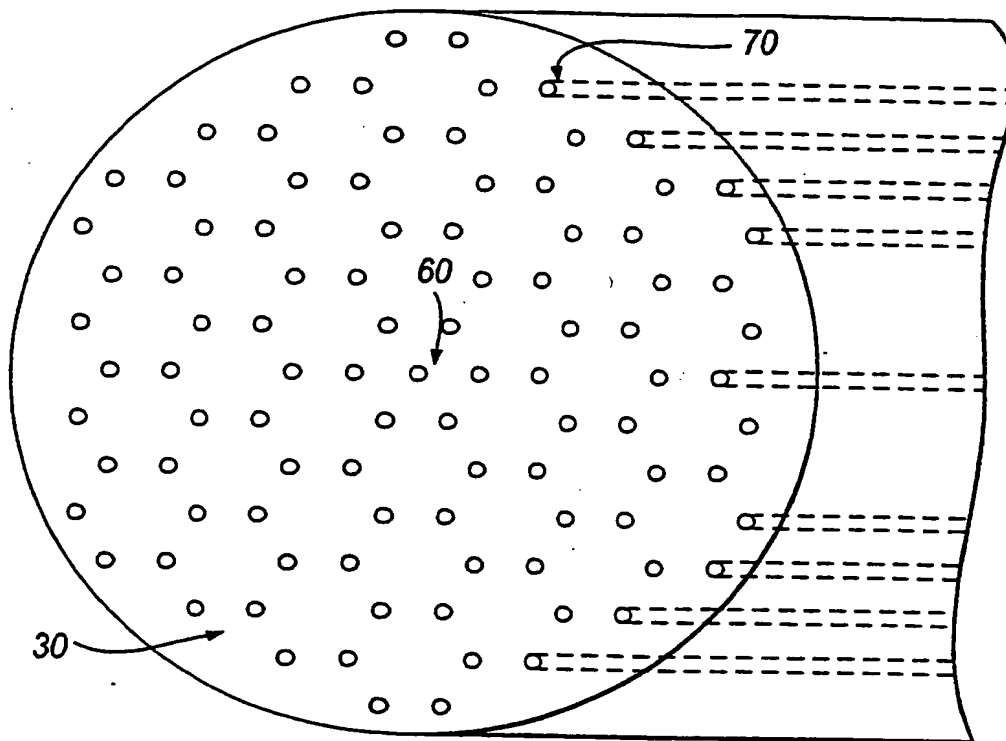


Fig.3

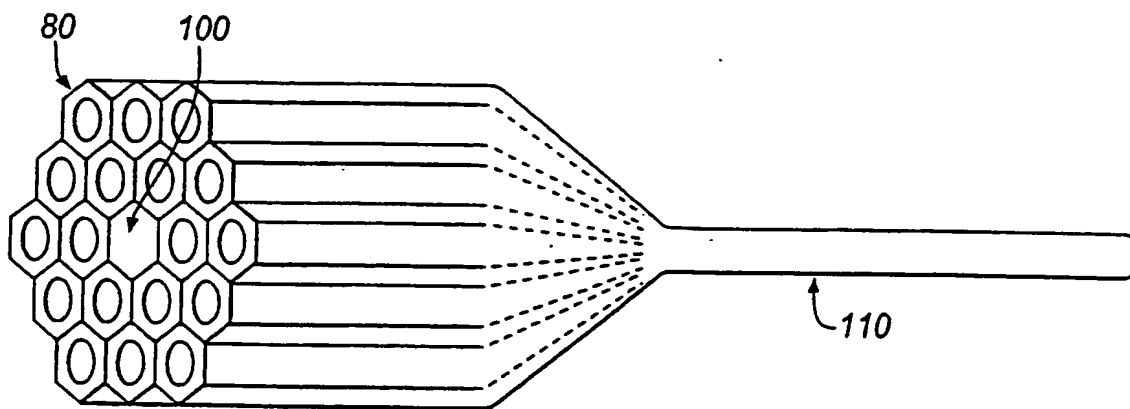


Fig.4 PRIOR ART



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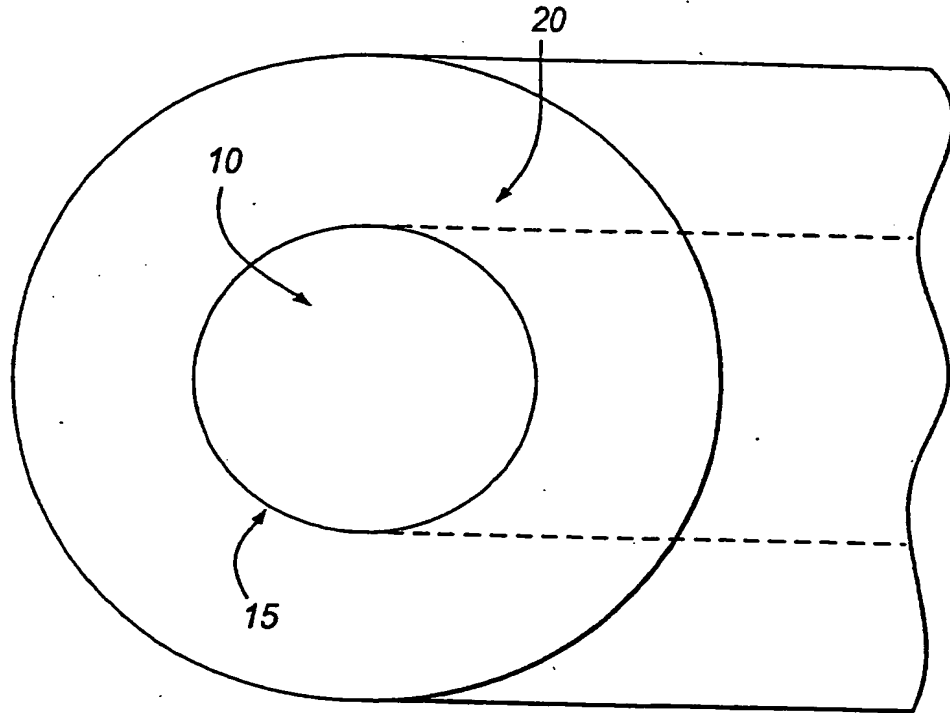


Fig. 1

PRIOR ART

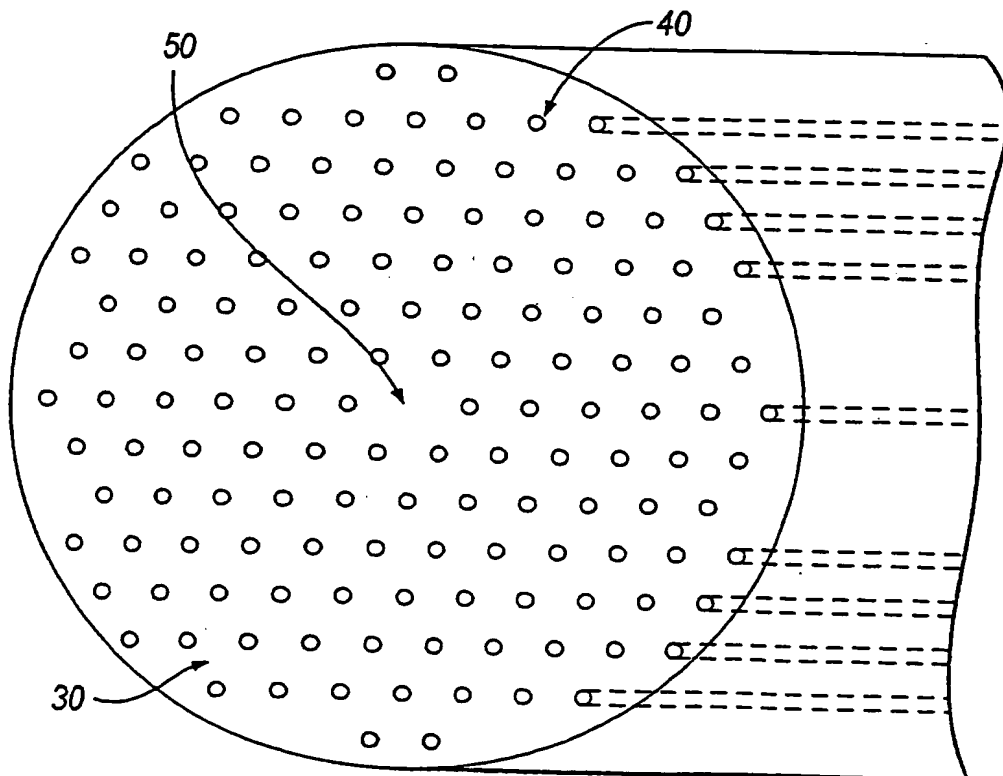


Fig. 2